

It may be over and out for city radio pirates

A weekend pirate radio station is operating in Cambridge, and yesterday one of the organisers claimed they were not interfering with any other radio users.

But Cambridge Post Office is waiting to hear what action it will be asked to take against the pirates after reporting them as unlicensed operators to the Home Office.

Cambridge All Music Radio has been broadcasting regularly for a limited period over the weekends since Christmas, from secret locations around the city.

They have been using a mailing address at a city record shop and the programmes are pre-recorded by a number of disc jockeys.

One disc jockey, who said his name was Steve Ingrams, said yesterday their broadcasts were on an empty slot in the waveband and were at a high frequency. So they could only be picked up in Cambridge and not drift to

cause problems elsewhere.

He added: "We are not competing for air space and are offering a completely local service, something which Cambridge lacks, featuring local bands, local gigs and local issues."

"So far there has been a great response and we plan to keep going. We take certain precautions to avoid capture by the Post Office, but I would not say what they are."

The pirates hope a low profile and limited broadcasts will not provoke the Post Office into enforcing the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949. This makes unlicensed broadcasts illegal and they can lead to fines and confiscation of equipment.

But a Cambridge Post Office spokesman said the Post Office only acted as an agent to the Home Office. Although the pirates had been reported, no order to try to find or prosecute them had yet been received.

The spokesman added: "We are not killjoys, but the bands are so crowded these days licensing and co-operation is needed."